



## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Advanced Planning for Evacuation of Medically Fragile in Evacuation Warning Zone**

In order to assure safe and efficient protection of residents in the Evacuation Warning Area, it is advised that residents with medical conditions who would need assistance in an evacuation leave now. Waiting for a Mandated Evacuation order to arrange evacuation may cause delays. Residents who need medical assistance or need medical care in their home should consider the following recommendations:

1. If a resident will need evacuation assistance, do not call 911. Call the Jesusita Fire Call Center at 681-5197.
2. If possible, make arrangements to evacuate through friends or relatives.
3. If a medically fragile person has a place to go and needs transportation, call 681-5197 and transportation will be arranged according to the needs of the individual.
4. If a resident will need assistance evacuating and they do not have a place to go, call 681-5197 and the call center staff will transfer call to the Public Health Department operations team, which will arrange for an appropriate facility and transportation to the facility.
5. The transport team will call the resident to confirm arrangements

### **Air Quality Recommendations Distribution of Masks to the Public**

Air quality in the fire are may pose a health risk to residents, especially those with breathing or heart medical conditions. If there is hazy air or the smell of smoke in the immediate area, it is reasonable to follow these recommendations.

1. Stay indoors with windows and doors closed
2. Avoid vigorous physical activity, especially outdoors
3. If you have a respiratory or heart condition that is causing coughing, shortness of breath, wheezing, chest pain or other symptoms call your physician, consider leaving the area. If it is a medical emergency, call 911 or seek care at an emergency room.

Masks are of limited benefit for residents and are not recommended in order to perform routine outdoor activities. Masks should be used for essential required outdoor activities. Direct Relief International (DRI) has a limited supply of masks that should be used only if it is not possible to avoid outdoor exposure to the smoke generated by the fire. These masks are being made available to the public for free by DRI. It is critical that the masks be fitted properly on the face, so instruction for proper fitting will be included at the distribution sites listed in the press release.

DRI will be distributing masks to the public from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM today (5/7/09) at two locations:

- 1) Loreto Plaza on Las Positas and State
- 2) Lazy Acres 302 Meigs Road on the Mesa in Santa Barbara

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